

REPORT  
ON  
MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS  
IN  
ASSAM STATE



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COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS  
IRRIGATION TEAM  
NEW DELHI

September, 1965

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*September, 1965*

## LETTER

M. THIRUMALA RAO, M.P.  
Leader, Irrigation Team,  
Committee on Plan Projects

Camp: Care Hotel Wyndham,  
42, West 58th Street,  
NEW YORK-19.

*Dated the 27th November, 1965.*

My dear NANDA JI,

The Irrigation Team of Committee on Plan Projects has completed the study of minor irrigation works in the State of Assam. A report thereabout is enclosed for your perusal.

Assam is a heavy rainfall area and generally need for irrigation is not keenly felt. Only when there is a drought or long break in monsoon there is need for irrigation.

A single crop of paddy usually matures on normal rainfall. A second paddy crop can sometimes be raised successfully where irrigation facilities exist or can be improvised. Still optimum use of irrigation works so far built does not seem to have been made. Recording of irrigation, and water assessment do not exist in the State. If steps are taken for systematic assessment of benefits from irrigated agriculture, it would help introducing systematic second cropping in irrigated areas, leading to better productivity per acre.

Possibilities of introducing sugarcane cultivation in suitable areas, where irrigation facilities can be provided has been discussed in the report. The State will do well to give due consideration to the recommendations of the Team as also to extension of tea gardens and horticulture programme in such areas, where irrigation is possible.

Assam also suffers from the practice of shifting cultivation commonly called 'Jhum'. If such areas are utilised for fruit growing on commercial scale, better use could be made of the lands available apart from helping soil conservation.

A complacency seems to exist in Assam with regard to the promotion of agricultural production, presumably because the State is self-sufficient in food. If properly planned irrigation works are located and made use of, the State can help the national agricultural production programme significantly. Even unirrigated areas can produce more. Team's recommendations have been directed towards such an objective to be achieved.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the State authorities for extending to the Team their cooperation in conducting the studies.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. THIRUMALA RAO

Shri Gulzarilal Nanda,  
Minister of Home Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

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